

## AMENDMENT

Please amend the application, without prejudice, as follows:

### In the Claims:

Kindly amend claim 1 as follows:

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21 1. (Currently Amended) An optical fiber splicer comprising:  
a pair of retaining means for retaining optical fibers to be spliced;  
a block having a groove of V-shaped cross-section; and  
abutment and pressure-contact means for sliding terminal portions of said optical  
fibers in mutually opposite directions along said groove of V-shaped cross-section producing  
substantially equal elastic forces in said terminal portions, bringing said terminal portions into  
abutment and bringing said abutted terminal portions into pressure contact, said abutment and  
pressure-contact means including a slide member having a first end fixed to the undersurface of  
said block and a second end having a laterally extending arm, a shaft having means for adjusting  
the vertical position of said block and an eccentric cam coaxially fixed on said shaft, a base for  
axially supporting said eccentric cam, an adjustable stop for fine adjustment of the position of  
said base, and tension springs connected between said arm of said slide member and said base  
for energizing said slide member toward said eccentric cam, the amount of elongation of said  
tension springs capable of being set to avoid breakage of said fibers by pressure contact forces  
that exceed the stress tolerance of said fibers, said tension springs holding said block <sup>when</sup> if said  
eccentric cam is rotated beyond the set amount of elongation of said tension springs.

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